

INFORMATION REPORT

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The following is a summarized translation of the fourth and fifth numbers of Al-Qadir (The Masses), a communist periodical published in Arabic and circulated in Egypt among members of the communist movement:

CPYRGHT The Fourth Number, published 1 February 1949

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2. The reply of Al-Qadir to the plan of M.S.H.M. is as follows: It accuses the latter of wanting to control the whole movement, even though it is not the strongest group. M.S.H.M., according to Al-Qadir, claims to have 75 per cent of the supporters of Haditu. The periodical queries, "How did they arrive at that? How many members do they have in Mu'izz (Cairo)? Certainly not more than 25 per cent, and these for the most part are students and intellectuals." The article concludes with the statement that numbers are no measure of strength and that they (sic), themselves, are strongest, not only because of numbers, but also because they contain the best elements.
3. A second article in the Fourth Number deals with finance. It points out that, in the past, financial help had come primarily from foreigners who could not really be loyal to the cause. However, they were given positions in the movement which their qualifications and abilities did not justify, simply because they had been willing to give money. Now, however, many of these people no longer give the sums that they did, because they are unwilling to make the sacrifices demanded. Such people, the article states, are unreliable. It goes on to say that all must realize that one of the essential conditions of membership in the communist movement is payment of subscriptions. Every effort must be made and all means exploited to get money to carry on the work and to help the families of those who have been and are in prison.

The Fifth Number

A Letter from the Sudanese Movement for National Liberation

4. Some time ago we sent a letter to the Sudanese movement, which we published in the second number of Al-Qadir. We have now received a reply from our comrades there, and we publish it here so that we may all join in sending our wishes to our friends in the Sudan.

From the Central Committee of the Sudanese M.N.L. to Haditu

5. Great steps have been made by the communist movement in the Sudan during the last year. The end of 1948 witnessed a great battle between the Sudanese people and the tyrannical imperialists. The struggles that took place in the streets of most of the big towns were led mainly by Communists, and with progressive slogans. However, up to now we have had to work mainly through political parties. We must also seek to work on our own, and the most important thing we must do is to have a secret magazine to be distributed among the people. We are at the moment studying this project, which will be discussed at the conference that is shortly to be held.

Our problems in the Sudan, a very large country and sparsely populated, are different from those of the communist movement in Egypt. For one thing, it is absolutely essential for us to have a communist press which can link up the different parts of our country.

We heartily support your suggestion for holding periodic meetings, but we consider the first duty is that you send more than one representative to attend our conference.

We have heard rumors of a new split in the Egyptian communist movement. We do not know if this is true, but hope it is not, as such splits are very destructive and do not make for unity. We support you in your struggle against all such tendencies within the movement.

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The Preparatory Committee

6. This committee is supposed to prepare ideologically and politically for the general conference and to draw up the basic points of difference to be discussed. This it has not done so far, because it has been occupied in trying to persuade the different organizations to join in the conference. So far, five organizations have agreed to join. They are: Haditu, Haditu Th., N.H.Sh., M., and F.G., while M.Sh.M. has shown that its final attitude is not to join.*****

Haditu has sent a suggestion limiting the points for discussion to be dealt with by the committee. These are that each organization should make clear its attitude toward a. splitting up; b. work among non-worker groups; c. analysis of the past stages in the history of the progressive movement - the crisis of the progressive movement and the way it can be solved; d. schedule of rules; e. program; f. attitude toward the decision of the general conference. Al-Qadir must play its part in this all-important period before the conference by publishing articles about the various subjects to be discussed. In the future, al-Qadir will announce the subject to be dealt with in the next number, so that members will have the opportunity to do research on that subject.

Financial Policy

7. Many people who formerly gave large subscriptions to the movement are now frightened by the Government's measures against Communism, and no longer aid us. On the other hand, our expenses have gone up considerably, because of the added secrecy we must observe, also because we must spend money to help the families of those men who have fallen a prey to the present regime and who, without our help, will die of hunger. Also, we must build up a group of professional revolutionaries who will not be tied to one sort of work or to one place, and who must be trained in the arts of fighting against the police, such as in the use of weapons, unarmed combat, and disguise. For all this, large sums of money will be needed. We must also think of arming, not because we are today at a stage of street fighting and the armed struggle, but because we are progressing toward this stage and must prepare for it. But where is the money for all these plans? This is one of the essential problems that face us. Until now, al-Qadir has not received any articles about our financial policy, which shows that the political importance of this problem at the present stage is not appreciated. Once again, we repeat our appeal.

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Comment. M.Sh.M. is believed to stand for Monazin Shiyawi Masrin, or Egyptian Communist Movement.

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** Comment. Believed to be an Egyptian Communist organization, but not identified in the report.

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*** Comment. Not identified.

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**** Comment. Probably refers to the Democratic Movement of National Liberation.

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***** Only two of these may be tentatively identified: "M" may refer to the Marxist League, and "F.G." probably denotes Fayr al-Qadid.

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